FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

5 MARCH 1984

Lebanon

Abrogation of 17 May Agreement — The government has decided to abrogate the 17 May agreement with Israel, the cabinet secretary announced after a 5 March meeting according to Beirut radio.

Security/Political Situation — Former President Camille Sham'un and Lebanese Ba'th Party leader 'Asim Qansuh announced that a cease-fire is imminent, according to remarks cited by Beirut radio on 4 March. Sham'un, who had just met with President Amin al-Jumayyil, said they discussed the possibility of replacing the 17 May agreement with "security arrangements," while Qansuh said after talks with Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam that the National Dialogue Conference will resume in Switzerland on 12 March.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Elie Salim met separately with Khaddam and Lebanese opposition leaders in Damascus for further talks on the 17 May agreement and to "clarify some points" raised in Salim's earlier visit to Saudi Arabia, Beirut radio noted. Citing "official sources," the radio said Salim and the Syrians reached understanding on "all pending issues in a reasonable and sound way." The Lebanese opposition leaders withdrew a deadline they had set for the abrogation of the agreement with Israel and, after a meeting between Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Amal Movement and Progressive Socialist Party leaders Nabih Birri and Walid Junblatt, Birri told reporters that agreement was reached on a "constitutional formula" for the abrogation of the agreement, according to Radio Monte Carlo.

Jerusalem radio announced that Lebanon informed Israel of its intention to abrogate the accord and proposed instead to discuss security arrangements for southern Lebanon. Although Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's office said Israel adheres to the 17 May agreement and is not discussing any substitute, Interior Minister Yosef Burg said in remarks broadcast by the radio that Israel's need for security arrangements is more important than a "piece of paper." An official Lebanese source cited by Beirut radio denied that Lebanon had asked Israel to negotiate an agreement on security arrangements, asserting that the Israeli report "is not accurate and Lebanon has not asked this officially."

Commenting on the results of the Al-Asad-Al-Jumayyil summit, Damascus radio warned "hostile" forces who are trying to "cast doubts" on the results of the talks that they are wasting their time in attempting to prevent the "inevitable collapse" and "complete cancellation" of the agreement with Israel. The radio, which has ceased branding Al-Jumayyil a "Phalangist" president, asserted that the results of the talks will soon become apparent "in the form of frank and definite measures."

French Withdrawal — During his current visit to Lebanon, French External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson announced that the withdrawal of the French force from Beirut is imminent, KUNA reported citing an "informed source," but Beirut radio quoted the minister as saying that no final decision had been reached yet.

Iran-Iraq War

Although Iraq did recently "raid" Khark Island, it failed to accomplish anything, Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said in a 4 March interview on Tehran radio. In the past, Iraq "repeatedly" fired missiles at the island and dropped bombs that resulted in "limited successes," he admitted. However, should Iraq manage to deal a "severe blow" to Iranian oil exports, Iran will be the one carry out threats, such as closing the Strait of Hormuz, he warned. The consequences must then be borne not only by Iraq but by the USSR, France, and the United States, which supply Iraq with money and missiles. Should this "final weapon" be employed and the United States confines itself to threats, the Strait of Hormuz would only remain closed until Khark Island is reconstructed, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said. However, if the United States tries to intervene, Iran has "contingency plans" to confront it.

Earlier, an Iraqi military spokesman, in a statement reported by INA on 2 March, reaffirmed Iraq's determination to strike at any naval "target" approaching Khark or any other Iranian port. However, Iraq will not now strike at the island's loading facilities in hopes that Iran will give Iraq the same opportunity to use its ports and the Arab Gulf. Iraq will nevertheless continue to tighten its "siege" of the island and "intensify" its strikes against the island and Iranian ports, the spokesman added. These strikes will also be extended to include blows against the loading facilities should Iran insist on pursuing its policy of aggression, the spokesman warned.

Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni, in speeches broadcast by Tehran radio on 3 and 4 March, emphasized the importance of propaganda and said it was an issue which should be given top priority. Iran must exert maximum effort to extend its propaganda, particularly abroad, since most of the world's mass media are aimed against Iran, and those countries not actively opposing Iran are keeping silent.

Regarding those individuals who desire peace negotiations with Iraq's Saddam Husayn, Khomeyni emphasized that such an outlook is "incomplete" at the present time. If Iran sits with Saddam now it will be an act against the dignity of Islam and human honor, because peace with a person who will later "stab us in the back harder" is not an honorable and wise peace.

Iran claimed continued advances into Iraqi territory over the weekend, smashing one Iraqi brigade and partially destroying two others in the process, Tehran radio reported on 3 March. Another Iraqi plane was shot down on 4 March, bringing to 13 the total number downed since the start of the Khaybar operation on 21 February, IRNA announced. Eleven Iraqi helicopters have also been destroyed during this period, IRNA added. An Iraqi military spokesman, in a statement to INA, denied that any Iraqi aircraft were downed. According to the military communique carried by Baghdad radio on 4 March, all aircraft returned safely to base after inflicting losses in men and equipment.

Iraq will be forced to use "new weapons and methods" when necessary and at the proper time, INA reported citing *ATH-THAWRAH* for 3 March. The paper also said that Iran recently executed 25 Iranians of various military ranks in the wake of Iranian military failures east of Basra.

In another development, Iranian Foreign Ministry officials discussed the situation in the region with Syrian President al-Asad in Damascus, according to Damascus radio. The Syrian president also conveyed a reply message to his Iranian counterpart.

Israel

Security forces imposed a news blackout on their investigation into the shooting incident involving a bus in the Ramallah District on 4 March during which at least four Arab workers were wounded, Jerusalem radio reported. The Terror Against Terror (TNT) organization later claimed responsibility for the "ambush" in an anonymous call which warned that the attack was "just the beginning," the radio added. Meanwhile, Minister Without Portfolio Ari'el Sharon, in remarks reported by IDF Radio on 4 March, stated that if Nabulus becomes a center for terrorism it may be necessary for Israel to "shell" it. The government, Sharon said, is increasingly giving in to the United States without pressure or resistance, Jerusalem radio added. This can be seen in the "tacit agreement" between the United States and Israel to freeze the establishment of new settlements, Sharon pointed out.

In another development, Israel has "changed its mind about opposing the formation of a Jordanian rapid deployment force with U.S. assistance in light of a U.S. promise not to supply the force with advanced weapons and U.S. affirmation that the force would not be directed against Israel but would deal with crises in the Gulf region, Jerusalem's Arabic service said.

PLO Affairs

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat received an "important" message from Soviet leaders via the Soviet ambassador to Tunis concerning current developments in the Middle East, Baghdad Voice of PLO radio reported on 4 March.

Meanwhile, PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, in remarks cited by KUNA on 3 March, said that a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation will visit Moscow "shortly" to urge the USSR to renew its call for an international conference to discuss Palestine. The delegation will also visit a number of European countries, 'Abbas added. Commenting on the recently concluded talks between 'Arafat and Jordan's King Husayn, 'Abbas said that no "secret decision" had been produced by the talks, although agreement had been reached to continue consultations, KUNA reported. There is no Palestinian or Jordanian objection if Syria wants to join the Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue as this would "strengthen" the Arab stand, 'Abbas added.

The Fatah Central Committee is scheduled to convene on 5 March in Tunis to review the results of the Jordanian-Palestinian talks and discuss a number of topics related to the PNC, according to a Palestinian source cited by KUNA.

Libya

Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, in a 2 March speech carried by Voice of Greater Arab Homeland radio, announced his belief in the existence of a "reactionary force" within the popular conferences which must be "purged" to prevent it from exercising any authority with the masses. These "friends of America" in the popular conferences are the ones responsible for opposing military training for women, he added.

In another development, the existence of an opposition front to Al-Qadhdhafi's regime has been "confirmed" by transmissions from a new radio calling itself "the Voice of the National Front for the Salvation of Libya," MENA reported on 3 March.

Syria

Geydar Aliyev, first deputy premier of the USSR, will visit Syria in the first half of March, Damascus radio announced. The visit had earlier been postponed by "mutual agreement" following Yuriy Andropov's death.

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

CONTENTS

South Asia

Vol VIII No 044 *5 March 1984*

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW i

INDIA

USSR's Ustinov Arrives, Talks to Reporters ..... E 1
Meetings With Gandhi, Venkataraman ..... E 1
Afghan Refugees Stage Hunger Strike as Ustinov Arrives ..... E 1
Talks With Pakistan To Resume in May ..... E 1
Prime Minister Comments on Punjab, Other Issues ..... E 1
Address to Rajya Sabha ..... E 1
3 March Remarks on Punjab ..... E 2
Further Report ..... E 2
Call for United Response ..... E 3
Three Areas in Punjab Declared 'Disturbed' ..... E 3
Curfews Extended ..... E 3
Official Says Doors Open for Talks on Assam ..... E 3
Sikhs Arrested for August Attack on USSR Embassy ..... E 3
Statement by Kashmir Assembly Member Discussed ..... E 4
President Zail Singh Welcomed in Arunachal ..... E 4
France Set To Deliver 40 Mirage-2000 ..... E 4
U.S. Assurance on Tarapur Spare Parts Cited ..... E 4
Student-Police Clash in Lahore Reported ..... E 4

PAKISTAN

New Joint Staff Chairman, Army Vice Chief Named ..... F 1
Three Ministers To Leave Cabinet 'Soon' ..... F 1
PRC's Li Xiannian Arrives 5 March ..... F 1
Arrival Statement Reported ..... F 1
Naik Returns From India, Cites Upcoming Talks ..... F 1

IRAN

Ayatollah Khomeyni Speaks to Groups 3,4 March ..... I 1
Discusses War, Propaganda ..... I 1
Comments on Peace Talks ..... I 2
Hashemi-Rafsanjani on War Situation, Khark ..... I 3
Khamene'i Gives Friday Prayers Sermon ..... I 6
IRNA Report ..... I 7
Ministers, Officials Tour Khark Island, Bushehr ..... I 8
Further Report ..... I 8
Imam's Representative ..... I 8
Officials Visit Bandar 'Abbas Naval Base ..... I 9
1,500 Mobilization Forces Depart for Fronts ..... I 9
Armed Forces Joint Staff Issues Communiques ..... I 9
Communique No 1,653 ..... I 9
Communique No 1,654 ..... I 9
Communique No 1,655 ..... I 10

Musavi-Ardabili: Revolution Growing Stronger ..... I 10
NVOI Commentary on 'Fratricide in Kordestan' ..... I 10
Khamene'i Receives Chadli Bendjedid Message ..... I 11
Afghan Defense Minister Under House Arrest ..... I 11

USSR's Ustinov Arrives, Talks to Reporters

BK050745 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] A warm welcome was given to the Soviet defense minister, Marshal Ustinov, when he arrived in New Delhi today on a 6-day official visit. He is accompanied by a high-level 55-member delegation. He was received at the airport by the defense minister, Mr Venkataraman, and his deputy, Mr K.P. Singh Deo.

Talking to newsmen at the airport, Marshal Ustinov expressed the hope that his talks with the prime minister and other leaders will bring about good results like before. He said the Indo-Soviet cooperation is really working in the right direction. Although India and the Soviet Union have different social systems, yet we have been able to establish very good friendship, he said. Both countries would like to live in amity and work for world peace.

Mr Venkataraman said the area of cooperation between India and the Soviet Union is very large and we have to update it from time to time.

Meetings With Gandhi, Venkataraman

BK051607 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Excerpt] The Soviet defense minister, Marshal Ustinov, said that his country wishes to continue to develop economic cooperation with India. He said this at a meeting with the prime minster, Mrs Gandhi, soon after his arrival in New Delhi today. The meeting lasted over 100-minutes. No aides, except an interpreter, were present.

Marshal Ustinov gave Mrs Gandhi an account of the Soviet economy and Moscow's efforts for disarmament and world peace. Mrs Gandhi told the Soviet minister about the situation in India's neighborhood and in the region.

Later, the Soviet defense minister had talks with the defense minister, Mr Venkataraman. Tonight Mr Venkataraman is giving a banquet in honor of Marshal Ustinov.

Afghan Refugees Stage Hunger Strike as Ustinov Arrives

BK051111 Hong Kong AFP in English 1047 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] New Delhi, Mrch 5 (AFP) — Some 500 Afghan refugees here went on a hunger strike as Soviet Defence Minister Dimitriy Ustinov arrived in the Indian capital today on a five-day visit.

A group spokesman said that the refugees, who are members of the Islamic Unity of Afghanistan Freedom Fighters, were protesting against the presence of over 100,000 Soviet troops in their country.

"We urge Marshal Ustinov to withdraw his troops from our motherland and stop barbaric activities and destruction," a statement said.

"Our hunger strike is also to draw the attention of the people and leaders of India to this effect," it added.

The group links three refugee organizations here.

Talks With Pakistan To Resume in May

BK031256 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 3 Mar 84

[Text] Foreign secretaries of India and Pakistan are to resume their discussions in Islamabad in May. The talks will cover the treaty of peace, friendship, and cooperation proposed by India and Pakistan's proposal for a nonaggression pact, besides other aspects of bilateral relations.

This was announced in New Delhi today at the end of Pakistani Foreign Secretary Mr Niaz A. Naik's visit to India. Mr Naik and the foreign secretary, Mr Rasgotra, had been having informal talks in Udaipur for the last 3 days on varicus bilateral matters. They considered further measures that could be taken to build confidence, remove irritants, and strengthen mutually beneficial friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

An official spokesman said both the foreign secretaries feel that their talks have been useful.

Prime Minister Comments on Punjab, Other Issues

Address to Rajya Sabha

BK021643 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 2 Mar 84

[Text] The prime minister has appealed to all parties to join hands to combat communalism and uphold secularism. Communalism is a big challenge and a formidable threat to the achievements of our national movement. Mrs Gandhi was replying to the 4-day debate in the Rajya Sabha today on the president's address. Later, the house adopted the motion of thanks.

Referring to the Punjab situation, Mrs Gandhi described as a baseless and malicious propaganda that the government is not solving the problem. The will to negotiate and come to a reasonable and acceptable solution cannot be one-sided.

Deploring the cult of violence, she said terrorism of extremists must be opposed politically and administratively. The separatist philosophy of extremists endangers the unity and integrity of our country. It is neither in the interest of Sikhs nor in the interest of the country as a whole. She said many Sikhs are speaking up, but this needs to be done on a wider scale, not only by Sikhs but by all others. It is not a Hindu-Sikh problem but a wider question. Violence in Haryana is equally condemnable. All means — press, TV, radio, and mass campaign — must be used to educate people against the evil of communalism.

Referring to Kashmir, she said the situation in the state is disturbing because of the consorted activities of secessionist and communal organizations. Firm and effective action and continued vigilance are of utmost urgency. The murder of Mr Mhatre

has to be viewed in the larger context of the antinational activities of such organizations. Overt or covert encouragement to them is a dangerous game and mere condemnations are not enough to deal with them.

Mrs Gandhi rejected the opposition allegation that the center wants to topple some state governments. It is ridiculous to accuse the center of reducing states to subordinate positions. To some extent they are bound to depend on the center, just as the center depends on them. You cannot have a weak center and then be expected to function effectively. She pointed out that within the present framework, the country has made a remarkable progress and said we have to preserve the structure of complimentality between the center and states, which was developed by the founding fathers of our Constitution. Separatist tendencies are growing because of the encouragement given to regionalism and other such movements by the opposition.

Recounting the achievements in the economic field, Mrs Gandhi said India is one of the few developing countries which has made a real dent on its poverty.

Referring to varying estimates about the actual number of people below the poverty line, Mrs Gandhi said in a vast country like ours there is bound to be differences in this. What is important is the tremendous efforts we are making to lessen and remove poverty.

About prices, she said they have gone up in the current year and it is a matter of real concern. The government is doing all it can to control the price rise. While it is important to control inflation, it should not be at the cost of economic growth. That is why we have increased the rate of plan expediture.

Reiterating India's policy to improve relations with all her neighbors, Mrs Gandhi said their stability is our stability. She hoped that Pakistan will respond to our desire and initiatives for greater trust and cooperation.

Underlining the need and scope for greater cooperation between India and China, she observed that it is a pity there are some moves now which could create a situation as if the two countries are pitted against each other.

Mrs Gandhi endorsed the opposition contention that the president's address to parliament read like an All-India Radio (AIR] bulletin. The address appeared like an AIR bulletin because it was a matter of fact and it did not indulge in hyperboles, she added.

3 March Remarks on Punjab

BK030935 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 3 Mar 84

[Text] The prime minister has made it clear that the government is fully aware of the latest situation in Punjab and is taking action against the lawless elements. Talking to newsmen at Lucknow on her way to Jagdishpur in Sultanpur District, Mrs Gandhi said that the government is keen to solve the Punjab problem. But the Akalis have been rejecting the government's initiative for negotiations. The prime minister said the government had several times offered to negotiate with the Akali Dal to find an amicable solution to the problem but there has been poor response.

Later, addressing a public meeting, the prime minister said the opposition parties are inciting agitations which will endanger the unity of the country. The public meeting followed the inauguration of the Jagdishpur unit of the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited [BHEL] in Sultanpur District in Uttar Pradesh today. Mrs Gandhi cautioned the people against the divisive forces and appealed to them to work for strengthening the unity and integrity of the country. She said some forces are fanning communalism and regionalism, which is a dangerous trend.

The prime minister reiterated the government's policy of setting up industries in backward areas. She expressed satisfaction that the Jagdishpur unit of BHEL has started production in a record time. She said the country is making all round progress despite difficulties. There is poverty and price rise but no one can deny that things are much better now than they were at the time the country got independence.

The prime minister said the 3 year rule of the Janata and the Lok Dal derailed the economy. She said her government has brought the economy back on the rails.

All-India Radio correspondent reporting from Jagdishpur says the BHEL factory has been constructed at a cost of 19 crore rupees and is producing high voltage insulators.

Further Report

BK031609 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 3 Mar 84

[Excerpts] The prime minister said the present threat of extremist activities is dangerous for the country. She said the government is fully aware of the latest situation in Punjab and is taking measures against the lawless elements. Mrs Gandhi was addressing a meeting in Sultanpur today after inaugurating a cooperative sugar factory. She said the government is keen to solve the Punjab problem but the Akalis have not responded to the initiative for negotiation.

Mrs Gandhi said if the extremists in Kashmir are not getting protection, at the least they are not being checked.

The prime minister pointed out that when she spoke of threats from outside, the newspapers reported as if there is an immediate danger of war. She said she wants world peace and peace within the country, then only we can progress.

She criticized the opposition for not believing in removing poverty and unemployment and said that it only believes in removing her. She asked the people to work unitedly for the progress of the nation. We have to be self-reliant by increasing production all round.

The prime minister has since returned to New Delhi.

Call for United Response

BK041626 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 4 Mar 84

[Text] The prime minister has said that the situation in Punjab calls for a united response from all those who wish to preserve and strengthen the secular base of our society and polity. Mrs Gandhi said this in a message to Mr (Madan Lal Dili), a prominent Communist Party of India leader while conveying her grief over the recent murder of his son-in-law, Mr Sumit Singh, editor of a Punjabi magazine in Amritsar. She pointed out that in the past, whenever communal incidents took place, all parties committed to secularism worked together to check them.

The president of the Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee, Mr Harbans Singh Manchanda, has said that the recent happenings in Punjab and Haryana were due to the misguided policies of the Akali Dal. In a statement in New Delhi today, he appealed to the Akali Dal high command to review the action in the light of these incidents.

The 11th Congress of the All-India Forward Bloc has expressed concern over the recent violent incidents in Punjab. In resolutions adopted at its session in Calcutta, the party appealed to the Akalis to come to a peaceful solution and avoid agitation. It also urged the center to take steps to remove the feeling of insecurity from among the minorities in Assam. Later, briefing newsmen, the general secretary of the party, Mr Chitta Basu, said the delegates disapproved the disrespect shown to the Constitution by some Akali leaders.

Three Areas in Punjab Declared 'Disturbed'

BK041507 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 4 Mar 84

[Text] In Punjab, areas comprising the districts of Amritsar, Gurdaspur, and Kapurthala, except the tahsils [subdivisions] of Pathankot and Phagwara, have been declared as disturbed. The order has been issued under the Armed Forces' Punjab and Chandigarh Special Powers Act and comes into force immediately. It will remain in force for 3 months.

The order empowers the state police, Central Reserve Police Force, and the Border Security Force to arrest anyone without warrant and enter and search any premises used for wrongful confinement of any person or storage of stolen property, arms, ammunition, and other explosive substances. It also gives the power to stop, search, and seize any vehicle suspected to be carrying proclaimed offenders or persons who have committed a cognizable offense or against whom such a suspicion exists.

An official spokesman said in Chandigarh that the step has been taken because the government feels that the activities of elements who are bent upon spoiling communal peace and public order in the state are concentrated mainly in these areas.

Curfews Extended

BK050320 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] In Punjab, curfew in Ludhiana has been further extended till tomorrow with relaxation from 0700 in the morning to 1900 in the evening. In Patiala, night curfew from 1800 to 0600 within the old areas of the city has also been extended till Sunday. A report from Amritsar says that the situation in the city is returning to normal. However, curfew has been extended to 0500 on Thursday. Relaxation in curfew has also been extended.

Meanwhile, the meeting of prominent Punjabis residing in Bihar has condemned the violent incidents in Punjab and Haryana. The meeting, organized under the auspices of Bihar Sikh Pratinidhi [Representative] Board, also criticized the misuse of religious places for storage of arms and ammunition and the sheltering of antisocial elements.

Official Says Doors Open for Talks on Assam

BK030929 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 3 Mar 84

[Text] The minister of state for home affairs, Mr Venkatasubbiah, has reiterated the government's stand that its doors are open for talks with the Assam agitation leaders. He was replying to a private member's resolution in the Rajya Sabha yesterday, seeking restoration of communal harmony in Punjab and Haryana and resumption of negotiations to solve the foreign nationals issue in Assam.

The resolution, which was tabled by Mr Dinesh Goswami, independent, was later withdrawn. The minister assured the house that no effort will be spared to find an early solution to the Assam problem. India's border with Bangladesh in the Assam sector will be fenced in 2 years to check infiltration. The process of forming the tribunals to detect and deport infiltrators is being finalized, Mr Venkatasubbaiah added.

Sikhs Arrested for August Attack on USSR Embassy

BK030905 Hong Kong AFP in English 0819 GMT 3 Mar 84

[Excerpt] New Delhi, March 3 (AFP) — Two Sikh activists arrested last month by the Indian police have admitted carrying out a grenade attack against the Soviet Embassy here last August, the police here said today. The attack caused minor damage to the embassy but there were no casualties.

Sukhbir Singh Khalsa, president of the youth wing of the Sikh Akali Dal political party, and Baljit Singh Rana, president of the Sikh Student Federation, were arrested by police in the capital last month as they were allegedly planning to launch a series of terrorist attacks here. The two men said they were members of a group based in the capital which received orders from the Golden

Temple — a major Sikh shrine in the holy Sikh city of Amritsar in Punjab State —, where the main chieftains of the Sikh Akali Dal party are holed up. They also admitted carrying out a series of grenade attacks in New Delhi cinemas which left five dead and 25 people seriously wounded, police said.

One of the two arrested told police yesterday that the aim of the embassy attack was "to create a big sensation and give the government the message that we mean business."

Meanwhile in Punjab, 2,500 men from the elite border police were being moved to Punjab in the wake of gunfights yesterday between police and Sikh militants which left five Sikhs dead. The new troops will reinforce some 30,000 federal policemen stationed in the troubled northwestern state since November.

Statement by Kashmir Assembly Member Discussed

BK050858 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 4 Mar 84

[Text] During the zero hour in the Lok Sabha today, Mr Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Bharatiya Janata Party, drew the speaker's attention to a reported statement by a member of the Kashmir legislative assembly that he is a Pakistani. He said this is a serious matter as the statement was allowed to go on the record of the assembly's proceedings. He wanted to know how a Pakistani national was allowed to become a member of legislative assembly if what the member says is true.

Professor K.K. Tiwari, Congress-I, said he also give a notice on the issue. The speaker, Mr Balram Jhakar, agreed with the members that it is a serious question. Under the rules the house cannot discuss the proceedings of the assembly.

President Zail Singh Welcomed in Arunachal

BK040929 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 4 Mar 84

[Excerpt] The president, Giani Zail Singh, was given a warm welcome when he arrived at Itanagar this afternoon on a day's visit to Arunachal Pradesh. He was received at the helipad among others by the lieutenant governor, Mr T.V. Rajeshwar; the chief minister, Mr Apang; and his Cabinet colleagues.

France Set To Deliver 40 Mirage-2000

BK020938 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 2 Mar 84

[Text] India is to buy 40 Mirage-2000 aircraft from France. The deliveries will start from the next financial year. The Lok Sabha was informed today that a decision on the manufacture of this aircraft under license will be taken up in due course after examining all relevent factors. There is no question of any reluctance on the part of the government in this matter.

The house was also informed that there was no significant reduction in the construction of fighter aircraft and helicopters by the Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd.

U.S. Assurance on Tarapur Spare Parts Cited

BK020932 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 2 Mar 84

[Text] The Rajya Sabha was told today that list of spare parts for the Tarapur atomic power station has been handed over to the U.S. Government. The minister of state for external affairs, Mr A.A. Rahim, said that the United States has assured the government that spare parts not available in other countries would be supplied by it.

Student-Police Clash in Lahore Reported

BK040904 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 4 Mar 84

[Text] In Pakistan, students clashed with police in Lahore yesterday and set a military jeep on fire. They were protesting against the government ban on student unions. Police burst tear gas shells to disperse them. Students also clashed with police at the medical college in Karachi; 10 students were detained.

New Joint Staff Chairman, Army Vice Chief Named

BK030949 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0800 GMT 3 Mar 84

[Excerpt] The president has appointed Lieutenant General Rahimuddin Khan and Lieutenant General K. M. Arif as the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee chairman and the vice chief of the Army Staff respectively from 22 March. Both will hold the rank of full general. A press note issued by the Ministry of Defense in Rawalpindi today said that the present Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee chairman, General Mohammad Iqbal Khan, and the vice chief of the Army Staff, General Sawar Khan, will retire on completion of their extended tenure of service in the Army.

Three Ministers To Leave Cabinet 'Soon'

BK041606 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 4 Mar 84

[Excerpt] The Federal Cabinet at its meeting today in Rawalpindi, which was presided over by President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq, approved the national policy on science and technology. The adviser on science and technology, Dr M.A. Qazi, will announce the details of the policy at a news conference in Islamabad tomorrow.

The Cabinet expressed deep gratitude to the three Cabinet ministers — retired Major Rao Farman Ali Khan, Al Hajj Nawab Mohammad Abbas Khan Abbasi, and Dr Nasiruddin Jogezai — who are leaving the Cabinet soon in connection with a Cabinet reshuffle. The Cabinet highly commended the selfless and tireless services rendered during their terms of office.

No new appointments have been made to replace them so far. However, the Ministry of Health and the Petroleum and Natural Resources Ministry will be directly under the president's supervision and the Ministry of Religious and Minority Affairs will work under the supervision of the information and broadcasting minister, Raja Mohammad Zafarul Haq. He will continue to be responsible for the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

PRC's Li Xiannian Arrives 5 March

BK050829 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0800 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] Chinese President Li Xiannian was accorded a very warm welcome when he arrived in Islamabad a short while ago on a 4-day official visit to Pakistan. He was received by President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq. Both leaders shook hands warmly. As soon as the distinguished guest alighted from the plane, a 21-gun salute boomed in the air and the two countries' national anthems were played.

The Chinese president reviewed a guard of honor presented by a contingent of the three armed services. Two children presented bouquets to the Chinese president and Madam Li Xiannian.

Present at the airport to welcome the distinguished guests were, among others, the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee chairman, General Mohammad Iqbal Khan; the vice chief of the Army Staff, General Sawar Khan; the naval chief, Vice Admiral Tariq Kamal Khan; the chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Mohammad Anwar Shamim; the federal council chairman, Khwaja Mohammad Safdar; federal ministers; members of diplomatic missions; and senior officials.

As the distinguished guests left the airport, a large number of people raised the slogans "Long Live Pakistan-China Friendship, Long Live President Li Xiannian." Groups of people were dancing in traditional attire to welcome the distinguished guests.

Arrival Statement Reported

BK051019 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Excerpts] The Chinese president, Mr Li Xiannian, was given a tumultuous and memorable welcome when he arrived in Islamabad this afternoon on a 4-day state visit to Pakistan. .

In a statement at the airport, President Li Xiannian expressed the hope that his visit will make useful contribution to the strengthening of Sino-Pakistani friendship and cooperation. He said they had come here with the purpose of further inceasing mutual understanding, promoting friendship, learning from Pakistani people, and strengthening our cooperation. President Li Xiannian said that the Chinese and Pakistani people enjoy traditional friendship. With the joint efforts of their two governments and people, the Sino-Pakistani friendship is developing further and growing in strength.

Naik Returns From India, Cites Upcoming Talks

BK040614 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 4 Mar 84

[Text] Talks on the Pakistani offer for a no-war pact and the Indian proposal for a treaty of peace, friendship, and cooperation will resume in Islamabad in mid-May. Indian Foreign Secretary Mr Mr. Rasgotra will visit Islamabad beginning 12 May for this purpose. This was stated by Pakistan Foreign Secretary Mr Niaz A. Naik on his return to Islamabad last night from New Delhi. He said both sides are trying to remove differences in the draft proposals. He said his informal talks with Mr Rasgotra in New Delhi and Udaipur considered measures to be taken to build mutual confidence, remove irritants, and strengthen a mutually beneficial friendship.

The foreign secretary also attended the conference of the Standing Committee of South Asian Nations Foreign Secretaries in New Delhi. He said the conference also reviewed the program [of cooperation] initiated last August. He commended the progress made in nine different sectors of cooperation.

Ayatollah Khomeyni Speaks to Groups 3,4 March

Discusses War, Propaganda

LD031403 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 3 Mar 84

[Text] Members of the coordinating council of Islamic propaganda and of the headquarters for the 10 Days of Dawn were received this morning by Imam Khomeyni, leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The meeting began with a report given by a member of the headquarters for the 10 Days of Dawn on the operation and activities of the coordinating council of Islamic propaganda and of the headquarters of the 10 Days of Dawn. The leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran then made a speech:

[Begin recording] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. I thank you for the notable work your organization has done and ask the Lord Almighty for more success for the gentlemen. The point that ought to be mentioned is that in dealing with problems all the people are involved, since these problems concern Islam. The programs that are announced, the work and tasks that deal with the Islamic Republic, are considered by the people as their own, thus they take active part in them. We must support the people, they must remain active in current matters. We are at present at the half-way stage. What I mean is that Islam demands from every single one of us, being the proper introduction of Islam everywhere, as far as this is concerned, we are at the beginning of the road. [sentence as heard]

The question of propaganda is one of the very important issues which should be given top priority. You know that the entire world propaganda is against us. As for those who do not oppose us, they are keeping silent. All the radios, all their newspapers, as noticed abroad, are entirely opposed to the Islamic Republic; they oppose Islam. Since they intend to deny Islam, since they see Iran's intention in trying to promote Islam — and once Islam is presented to them, then they will have to accept it for it will endanger their interests — therefore they oppose Iran. It is not because they oppose Iran or the Iranian population; their opposition stems from the fact that Iran has acquired an Islamic spirit. They want to restore the era of Mohammad Reza or other eras. They were not against it, they were for it since the Iran of that era was under their own control. However, an Iran which is not under their own control, an Iran which is their opponent, an Iran which refuses to submit to their wishes, this is the sort of Iran which they do not want. Consequently, by opposing such an Iran they are actually attacking Islam. Having said that, we must exert maximum effort to extend our propaganda, particularly abroad, in (?favor of) the government and the people in order to counter the present prevalent propaganda in the world.

Look what happened during the 10 Days of Dawn and 11 February [anniversary of the revolution] when such multitudes of people took part in the event. The policy adopted by those who had left Iran and taken steps is rather unique. They called on the people to stay indoors: What happened next, they ignored. Then they claimed: You see, no one came out. This is the state they are in now. This is one particular defeat which has become dsgraceful. Well, when they call on the people to stay indoors, no one can say who stayed at home or who came out. They do not say come out once so we can see who came out. On the one hand, they claim that the whole country supports them. On the other hand, they say if people come out, then things will happen to them. Well then, if all Iran is with you, then what is this?

Well, this occasion of 11 February which was marked in such a manner was neither reported in the foreign media — in any way worth mentioning — nor commented on by those residing abroad who speak against us. This is how 11 February was treated — a day, which, as reported by everyone and as we saw some of its scenes, was impressive, it was mammoth. Some people said it was similar to the early gatherings during 'Ashura [day Imam Ali's son was martyred]. Nevertheless, it was not reported by the rest of the world.

Now let us have a look at the state of the war. Today the war situation is such that in whatever operation the Islamic army takes part the guards and mobilization also take part. They achieve success; they take prisoners. Just very recently, it was said that they took 2,000 prisoners. Nothing is said about this.

Faced with this, they produce a television program. Well, it would have been quite all right if they knew what they were doing. I do not know whether it was last night or the night before, someone was saying that a television program produced in London was shown to make people understand the multitude of Iranians who have been killed. It showed their corpses lying all over the desert, while the Iraqis were enthusiastically jumping around. These poor Iraqis are in difficulties themselves. The Iraqi Army is desperate — an army which flees as soon as it sees four guards. Nevertheless, this is the sort of program they screen. This is the state of the world as a result of their propaganda. The nature of their propaganda is such as to spread anything which is against Islam and Iran because there is an Islamic Republic which wants Islam. There is propaganda against it from every direction. As for the importance of this war, the advance being made, the fact that the Iranian forces have already driven out everyone, almost, from Iran. [sentence as heard] They claim that Iran is sending 8-year-old children to the war. This is how it is now with propaganda. Obviously, no matter how extensive, our propaganda cannot match theirs, for they control the media. But, just the same, we must resort to publicity; we must tell the people. I do wish success for those responsible for propaganda, for those who go abroad, those who speak on radio and television, so that the true situation is explained, so that we clarify their situation as well as ours, so that it becomes clear what they are saying and what we are saying.

They are presenting Islam in such a manner even though Islam has never wanted war. We did not want a war. They started the war; we are only defending. Right now, if we give Saddam time, if he succeeds in having 2 more months, then they will strengthen him; they will equip him so that he can launch another attack against us. One cannot allow such an animal to do whatever he wants. Unless he is stifled, the region will not see improvement. As for those who help him, they do not understand; they do not know. America is playing with him; it is using them [as heard] as a tool. Iraq's power cannot be compared to other places in the Gulf; now America intends to involve them as it has involved Iraq. They must clarify their own situation; they must ascertain their stand vis-a-vis Islam; they must ascertain their stand vis-a-

vis Iran. After all, when Saddam goes they want to continue with their lives. We want them to have a proper life. We always want to create tranquillity for people here rather than create difficulty for them. We want to get on with our task. If they give Iran 1 year, then they will see that the entire region will become good, that the big powers will be thwarted, and that every area will have a prosperous life of its own. But America does not let them. It is resorting to various measures here and there.

I do hope that, God willing, they will be thwarted, that you will become successful in [words indistinct]. Iran belongs to you.All hands have been cut off; you now have to fix it. Thank the Lord that the people are on the scene. It is very good, but they have to remain on the scene. If we want to have an honorable life, then we must become true human beings. In the past, they never considered us as human beings, to them we were some type of goods, being bought and sold. This is how we were. However, today we are true to ourselves. I hope to God that you will meet with success — all of you meet with success and serve Islam and Iran. God bless you all. [end recording]

Comments on Peace Talks

LD041605 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1100 GMT 4 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Governors general from all over the country this morning met with Imam Khomeyni, leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran. In the course of this meeting, Interior Minister 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri first presented a report to the imam of the nation. Afterward, Imam Khomeyni made a detailed speech:

[Begin recording] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. I would like to tell the gentlemen one thing concerning the war. The people should also be made aware of this point. The point is this: The extent of our victory in this war should be understood by foreign propaganda. When they carry on extensive propaganda against us, it shows that our victory is greater. For instance, during the victory of Khorramshahr,they issued more propaganda. Today, when I observe, I see that there is much more propaganda against us now. For example, they mentioned us in their main news and as their first report. They never did such things before. Then there are so many false reports saying: The Iranians were crushed; they were annihilated; they are surrounded; they are besieged; they were destroyed. Sometimes Iraq says: We have killed 30,000 Iranians, sometimes they say 18,000, and today they said 50,000. No doubt, tomorrow they will claim to have killed 200,000 Iranians. They raise the level of their propaganda whenever they are defeated heavily. In other words, the volume of their propaganda corresponds with the severity of their defeat. The nation should notice this. Whenever you see that they are giving more details on the war and whenever they raise hue and cry on the extent of our defeat, then you should realize that we have achieved a greater victory. This is the case now. Our warriors have now captured sensitive areas on the front. Sometimes they say: There has been no war in Iraq, the battle was inside Iranian territory and all the corpses are on Iranian soil. The next day, they forget, or they do not udnerstand and say: We kicked them out of Iraqi territory and later they claim that the Iraqi soil is littered with the corpses of the Iranian dead. They say: We surrounded them and pushed them into the sea and the water; they could not swim and drowned. Some naive and gullible minds might believe this propaganda. Do not believe such things. What they say is not true. Our victory this time is the greatest so far and some of the gentlemen returning from the front said that the world should learn a lesson from our experience. I was told that our forces employed very important tactics and those teaching war techniques in the world should record and use these tactics.

Anyway, we should make sure that the people are not deceived by this propaganda. They might think: Perhaps there is some truth in this. When there is something, they magnify it a hundred times.We inflict more losses on them, but they magnify our losses. When they suffer losses, they increase their propaganda. It is obvious that now the United States is shouldering the burden of this war, therefore, it is reacting this way. See what it is doing in the Persian Gulf and elsewhere. It is resorting to commotion, threatening: We will now allow this and that to happen. It is repeating the same words which it knows will never be effective. It makes similar threats in other places, and France and Britain do the same. They all raise the level of their propaganda because the burden of war is becoming heavier on their shoulders. They also raise their threats thinking that we are afraid of their threats. We (?we have said that the United States cannot do a damn thing). It came to Iran and showed its muscles. Despite their small number, the Lebanese (?inflicted heavy losses on the Americans). The Government of Lebanon was also their ally, but they were forced to leave and France is also seeking some excuse now to escape. We know them quite well and we understand that their commotion is greater (than their deeds). That is, the foundation of colonialism is based on commotion and from the start they have tried to achieve their goals by commotion and threats.

For instance, some issues used to be raised in the previous Majlis, during the era of the late Modarres, when they were making demands against Iran. When Iran delayed in responding to their demands, a British ship would enter the vicinity of our waters. Such threats used to soften the Majlis and make them retreat. On the other side, Russia used to demand something from the Majlis. No one dared to discuss the Russian demand. Once Russia gave an ultimatum, and its forces began marching toward Iran. The late [name indistinct] said: Now that we are going to be annihilated, why should we be annihilated by the Russians? Let us do it ourselves and [words indistinct]. This proposal was accepted by others and they voted against the Russian demand, and nothing happened. This has always been their policy: to try and make us retreat by commotion and threats. The problem is not as it appears to be. I hope that this war will end in Islam's favor soon.

Another issue I should like to mention is that the feast period [Nowruz] is approaching. I expect the gentlemen and everybody to think about people for a moment, to think for a moment about those mothers who have lost their youngsters at the fronts or whose sons have become paralyzed, and so on. For instance, these members of the basij thought they would come here for the feast period. Well, you are busy carrying out a religious service, you want to leave the front and come here for the feast, God forbid! What sort of feast have you got? Why should you, who are busy

there like that, with poison bombs raining down upon you, leave the front for a feast? Your feast is when you hold the front fast and push them out of the scene. God willing, it will be followed by a bigger conquest — the final conquest. These feasts will come up for you later on and you will, God willing, make up for it. May grant you all... [sentence not completed]

I should like to say a few more words. Some individuals who do not seem to be malicious, who seem to be religious as well, say: Why isn't there peace? Come and make peace. For how long should the youths be killed? They have an incomplete outlook; they do not pay attention to the fact that if at the present time and in our present condition we accept the peace proposal and sit at a table with Saddam on one side and on the other side our president, then what will the world say to us? What will Islam say to us? What will Iraq tell us? What Will Iran tell us?

This person Saddam who has afflicted us for 4 to 5 years, and Iraq for many years, has done everything he could, everything he was able to do; if he has not done something, it is because he was unable to. Otherwise, he has carried out everything he could, and he will continue to do anything he can. If we give him a chance, if we sit and make peace with him and say: Very well,sir, you may go to your country, and we will go back to our own work, that would be against the dignity of Islam and human honor. Such a thing cannot be said. They are mistaken. Although we have sacrificed many youths and suffered a lot of losses, is peace with a person who will stab us in the back harder later an honorable and wise peace?

It is surprising that some people say if they entered our country we would sacrifice to our last youth. Well, this is nationalism, which is opposed by Islam. Do we consider Islam inferior to our nations? Do we consider Islam inferior to country? We are thinking about Islam. We do not consider the Iraqi nation separate from our nation. At present there are many of us there, there are many of our ulema there; we are not separate from them. When we are not separate how can we say for our own territory we would sacrifice to our last man without any second thought? They say: Why are we sacrificing so many? They say: When they were on our territory we would have sacrificed to the last man: now that they have gone somewhere else — which is not true — sit and make peace, an honorable peace. Is that honorable? Is it not against Islam to say that for our territory we sacrifice all our youths without a second thought, but if we sacrifice a youth for our religion it is not right? We are now fighting for our religion, not for territory. The day the war ends, we will embrace the whole Iraqi nation, and with a smile, and we will no longer have any conflict with them. Our war is one between Islam and blasphemy, not between two countries; it is a matter of Islam and blasphemy. If we retreat today, Islam will be defeated. We may not retreat today,we may not make peace with them. They talk about peace on one hand and they commit these crimes on the other. They do not want peace: they lie. He is a criminal whose crime is such that one cannot sit with him, make peace and sign something — one side signed by our president and the other by Mr Saddam. Nobody accepts this from us. Will the world accept this from us? Imagine, big powers say that is fine, thank God we won the issue, because it is a win for them. What would nations say to us? What would Islam say to us? What would the prophet of Islam and the lord of the era tell us? We are responsible. Therefore, the gentlemen had better think first, then talk; think first, then criticize.

I hope you gentlemen will, God willing, be successful in every endeavor. We do not expect either the East or the West to help us. We appeal to God for help. He has helped us so far and we have seen the results already and hope we will see them again, provided that we are servants of Islam, servants of God. Rely on God and He will assist you [Koranic verse]. We shall, God willing, rely on Him. Peace and God's mercy and blessing be upon you.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani on War Situation, Khark

LD041507 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 4 Mar 84

["Exclusive" interview granted by Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani to unidentified Tehran radio correspondent on 4 March; place not given — recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, please tell us about the outcome of recent operations by Islamic combatants, the situation along the battlefronts, and the morale of Islamic combatants?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] In the name of God, the compassionate the merciful. Recent operations should be included among the most successful operations to take place over the past 2 or 3 years. I believe the latest operations — which could be called a phase — are equal to the Fath al-Mobin operations. [1982 operations which resulted in recapture of Dehloran and Mehran] However, in view of the fact that the battlefront situation is considered a military secret that cannot be divulged as it constitutes the various dimensions of our victories and since this is a very sensitive phase and [word indistinct] we intend to carry out our task — and the dimension of experiments is rather lacking, therefore the enemies may abuse this propaganda void. [sentence as heard] What I can say is that the two islands captured by our combatants through their heroism — the future will show the immensity of subsequent victories — economically, these two islands are extremely important; so much so that certain Arab authorities stated recently that Iran has already obtained the reparations it claimed a couple of years ago, amounting to $150 billion — with, let us say, another $100 billion dollars accruing subsequently. Well, they say, what else do you have to say? Of course, this was not the sort of reparations we had in mind; we must receive our reparations in accordance with certain calculations, on the basis of some figures. However, if they fail to submit, then this would be a final resort, this type of reparations. Militarily, these islands, in addition to Hawr al-Huwayzah, in the vicinity of the islands, do have certain things which I cannot divulge at this stage. Later, people of the world will find out. I think that world military experts too have failed to consider the situation; but the day will come when they will. However, what is clear is that in this area we have established a domination such that the south and east, sorry, the west of the island, which is controlled by Iraq — meaning the areas in the proximity of the Tigris, the Talayah area within 3 or 4 km of the island on the west, as well as the area connected to the island in the south — are the most vulnerable point in Iraq.

The most important communication line in Iraq passes within 3 or 4 km from the island. Moreover, the most important and reliable Iraqi forces are situated in the kilometer [as heard] of the island. There are also other points which we can add to all these, but which I do not wish to cite now, for the Iraqis themselves know them. We believe that in the coming days the Iraqis will spare no efforts to recapture the island; formidable confrontations are expected around the island, with the likely result that it will be turned into a graveyard for the Iraqi troops and equipment. Nevertheless, this is something which the Ba'thists cannot afford to let go easily. Another few days of waiting and the people of the world will realize it.

I would like to address the correspondents and stress that they should not ruin their reputation, and that the mass media of the world should not make such (?baseless) claims since in a few days they might be able to go to the islands and see things that might contradict the reports they have already sent. Therefore, they should be patient. In any case. I think that if we were to choose a point inside Iraqi territory to capture, we would have no doubt given the islands priority. With the grace of God, we have done that and in good time. The plan was implemented with the least possible number of casualties.

[Correspondent] As you mentioned, radios and the imperialist media have tried to misrepresent the results of these operations. Would you please tell us what victories have the combatants of Islam gained as a result of these operations and have they advanced or not? Also, what is your view about announcing these matters and issues and how do you interpret them?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Some of the issues, in my view, should not be stressed because their time has not come yet. Therefore,I do not emphasize them. I agree with what you said about propaganda campaigns. In fact, there is an unprecedented wave of propaganda in the Western media, especially, and to some extent in the Eastern media too. They are trying to report quite the reverse of the facts as they are. No doubt, they know the islands, since oilfields are well known to them. They are aware of the value of the island. They do not mention this issue in their reports and, instead, they put forward other issues. That is not without reason either. The shock to Saddam's supporters both in the West and in the East and the reactionary countries has been so intense that they have concentrated all their propaganda might on stopping a serious disintegration inside Iraq to protect Saddam. These days they praise Saddam, the Ba'thist Party, and the Armed Forces of Iraq. It makes one wonder. I remember a story about Mullah Nasreddin when he tried to sell his donkey so much that the mullah thinks: If the donkey is so good I should buy it myself. So he goes ahead and buys the donkey. The same situation applies to Saddan, the Ba'thist Party, and the Easterners and Westeners. They have ordered their mass media to praise and support Iraq. Now, they have overdone it to such an extent that they themselves have been taken in. The media report astronomical figures pertaining to the number of casualties suffered by Iran, which is about 1,000 times more than the real figures.

In the region east of the Tigris in (?Al-'Uzayr), we have a legendary story which we have not yet shown or reported since these reports are military secrets. But one day we will report these events. We sent a limited number of our expert forces there to secure the island. This was one of our objectives, to establish our position on the island. It was one of our main objectives in this operation. Our forces carried out a lightning strike and secured the western part of the island. They did amazing things. Having crossed the water in helicopters, boats, and other vehicles, they caught the enemy by surprise. In spite of their limited numbers, they captured more than 600 POW's and brought them back across the water. You have to realize that to capture 600 POW's deep inside enemy territory the enemy must have suffered a large number of casualties. The enemy would not have fallen in the trap set by our combatants, who were only equipped with light weapons, so easily. To transport 600 POW's in transport vehicles, boats, helicopters, and other means while Iraqi planes fly overhead is no mean feat. For example, in this confrontation, they might have suffered a limited number of casualties, 50, 100, maybe less, I do not know the exact figure. This would naturally happen. Or they might have been wounded and might have been unable to return during the operations or they might have been martyred. But the numbers are limited. Now, I do not know what the Iraqis have done or what they have shown to reporters there. They might have shown them bodies of Iraqi dead and said that they were Iranians. Or they might have paid the reporters and made them report irrelevant stories. Figures and films are reported and shown to the world and the information (?is manipulated) in such a way that it does not take into account the 2,000 Iraqi POW's transferred from the island, battlefields and the region west of the Tigris. Why don't the Iraqis report capturing a similar number of POW's? If the Iraqis were really dominating our forces they should have been able to take a considerable number of POW's. It would have been a lot easier for them to take POW's on the other side of the water than to kill our forces.

I remember a scene from the (?battlefield) which is interesting and our nation should know this. When our forces carried out their mission, they were attacked with chemical weapons. So they decided to return to this side before the scheduled time. In order to deal the last blow on a fresh Iraqi unit that had just arrived in the field, they attacked at midnight and in addition to killing a large number of enemy they captured 100 POW's. This was over and above the 600 POW's they had already sent across the water. The POW's were brought to the banks of the lake.When they wanted to cross, they realized that they only had 500 places in the boats which were enough for themselves, being the last group to return, but they had to take the POW's with them. It is interesting to see how they approached the situation. They sat the handcuffed POW's on their laps and gave them bread and other things meant for themselves. Then they told the POW's that according to military laws the Iranian forces could execute the Iraqis and throw them in the water. But they were not going to do that since the Iraqis had surrendered without putting up resistance. The Iranian forces asked the Iraqis to take the message of affection from the forces of Islam to their nation; 100 POW's were released at the last minute, fed and unharmed. Our forces would have taken the POW's with them across the water if they had had any room in their boats, but because they did not want to kill POW's, they released them. We do not consider it proper to treat POW's otherwise and we will not permit any different behavior. Our forces thus behaved on the other side of the lake. Now, I would like to emphasize here that during the few days of the operations, in spite of the chemical bombs and air

raids, our casualty figure on the other side of the lake is definitely below 100. That is to say, the overall number of the wounded and the dead bodies taken by the Iraqis, some of which resulted from the same midnight confrontation, is less than 100. But they have created an uproar in the world in the way you have witnessed. Well, we expect this kind of reaction from the Western world. The only way left open to them to keep up Saddam's morale, to weaken the morale of the Islamic Republic, and to stop this legend from having its effect on the world and frightening the oppressors is what they are doing now. But, very soon, we will extend a public invitation to all correspondents and will show them the signs of our victories and we will make those propagandists regret what they have done.

[Correspondent] Considering the comments you just made, the victories of the combatants of Islam in the recent operations have been oustanding. Iraqi commanders have recently remarked on recapturing the liberated areas. World propaganda has announced these remarks in an effort to support the Iraqis. How do you view such statements?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] What they have termed recapturing is in connection with the Al-'Uzayr region. As I said, our operations on the other side of the Tigris were merely to consolidate our position on the island. In view of the fact that the land on the other side is only 3 km from the island, they would have been able to land troops on the island soon after we were on it if we did not make our presence felt on the other side. We used tactics and moved to the other side to establish our fronts and brought the POW's to our side, as I have mentioned. Of course, this does not mean that we will not go back. There are other issues involved and our future plans contain special tactics. We are able to do from the island what we did on the other side of the Tigris, that is, since our mortar launchers are only 7 or 8 km from the Basra-Baghdad road, so they can always open fire on the road and other vital Iraqi communications installations situated east of the Tigris.

[Correspondent] In your remarks, you commented on the use of chemical bombs. Having attacked our country's residential regions with missiles, the Iraqi regime is now using chemical bombs. The use of these bombs is not permitted in war. In this connection,foreign mass media have kept silent and are approaching the issue with some doubt. How will the Islamic Republic respond to Saddam's regime?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] The issue of use of chemical bombs is one of the unforgivable crimes committed by Saddam, and we are counting on it as one of the criminal charges we will bring against Saddam, the Ba'thist regime, and the Armed Forces of Iraq. In the past few days, the use of chemical bombs has been quite extensive. As of 2 days ago, when I contacted the Health Ministry, about 1,100 had been referrred to the Ministry of Health. Fortunately, just as we have resolved other issues connected with the war, through the efforts of our doctors and pharamcists, we have solved the problem of chemical bombs, too. Right now, as soon as an area is hit with one of these bombs, sprinklers are used to sprinkle medicine to clear the area. Those who have suffered skin irritation are immediately treated with ointments and powders that are at their disposal. In more serious cases, patients are transferred to field clinics for treatments. Recently, I was told that of the 1,100 I mentioned, about 600 to 700 have returned either to the fronts or back to their houses. Because we were not prepared at first, some cases became rather more serious, and they are now being treated.

Here we would like to address international organizations with an important message: According to one of its own resolutions, the United Nations is dutybound to send a mission to investigate any reported use of chemical weapons anywhere in the world, and its report should be released worldwide. Although we have filed a protest and reported to them, international organizations — the same organizations that try to justify their existence in the world — have not acted at all. Fortunately, we have blunted this weapon. But the world and international observers are condemned in this connection and, God willingly, we will use a weapon to counter the Iraqi weapons.

[Correspondent] My next question is in connection with Iraq's threats against Iran's economic centers. International propaganda machines have launched intensive propaganda campaigns about Iraq's threats against Iran's oil installations, including Khark Island, during the past few days. What practical responses have these threats received and what stance will the Islamic Republic take?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] At this point, I should refer to the issue of Khark. Khark is vital to us, that is, our use of the Persian Gulf is mainly dependent on Khark. We have already stated our position. If he [as heard] resorts to any adventure in this respect, there will be two alternatives:

He may fail — as you know, recently he did raid Khark, but we downed his plane; therefore, he failed to accomplish anything. In the past, too, he repeatedly fired missiles at and bombed Khark. Consequently, he did achieve some limited successes. As long as it remains at this level, we will continue to defend.

However, should the day come when, as a result of aid supplied to him, he manages to deal a severe blow to the export of our oil, thus rendering us unable to make use of the Persian Gulf, then it will be our turn to make threats which will be carried out. When our threats are carried out, this would bring about certain developments in the rest of the world. Needless to say, this would have very grave consequences for the world. For such consequences, the responsibility first should fall on the Iraqi Ba'thist Party for having acted as a middleman and then it must be borne by those who supplied him [as heard] with missiles or modern facilities, thus enabling him to deal that blow. Not for the first time I declare that should the incident of closing the Strait of Hormoz be raised, the responsibility for it must be directly borne by Iraq, the USSR, France, America, and other countries of the world. If there is any bill of indictment to be isusued, it ought to be issued against these countries. Should this happen, the countries which would suffer would be mainly the region's reactionary elements, for these elements provide Iraq with money to purchase such facilities.

However, I hereby state that we do not want this to happen. We will do everything, and endure the situation, lest such a thing happen. Nevertheless, this is our final weapon against him.

[Correspondent] In connection with the issue you raised, a second problem arises: the threats made by American authorities and his global supporters. Are they to get the same response?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Yes, for at that level, when we are forced to close the Strait of Hormoz, there will be only two alternatives: either they intervene or they do not. If they confine themselves to threats, if they act rationally, then we will close the Strait only until we are able to reconstruct Khark. Once Khark is reopened, we will reopen the Strait of Hormoz as well. However, if they intervene, the situation will change. For we do have contingency plans to confront them. We do know that such an act would involve considerable difficulties for the region, ourselves, and the rest of the world. But it is not we who created these difficulties; the responsibility would rest with others. Just the same, we will be decisive.

[Correspondent] In your remarks, you alluded to some Arab officials who stated that, by capturing the islands, the Islamic Republic has managed to obtain its reparations. They also rasied the issue of putting the aggressor on trial when they announced that they were ready to form a delegation on the subject. What do you have to say about this? Has the situation changed?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Of course, if they let us have this island as war reparations, to exploit it as our rights — as they say, 8 billion barrels of oil can be extracted from it and there are 30 billion barrels of oil in reserve which cannot be extracted — as reparations, we must first of all consult with the imam, the Majlis, other authorities, with the president, with the prime minister, and others. They should decide. However, Saddam's trial still remains. He must be put on trial. As for the return of Iraq's homeless people, that issue, too, is still valid.

[Correspondent] My next question is in connection with world events. During the past few days, we have heard of negotiations between 'Arafat and King Husayn and the question of forming a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation has been put forward. What is your view on the subject and what direction do you think these negotiations follow?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Imperialism and reactionaries are active in the region. They are taking advantage of our involvement. They think they are resolving the issue of Palestine and Lebanon. In my view, they will not succeed. There is now an Islamic resistance force in Lebanon. The main core of a similar movement can be detected in Palestine, inside the occupied lands. These efforts to build bridges — special confederations to be formed to bring the east and west banks of the River Jordan under one rule, that of King Husayn — will not fulfill the Palestinian's goal. It would not be [words indistinct] for the world arrogance to follow.

[Correspondent] Following the withdrawal of American, British, and Italian forces from Lebanon, it was announced that the French forces had left that country as well. Following this announcecment, diplomatic traffic in the region intensifed in order to find a way to stop the Muslim people's struggle. What is your view of the withdrawal of these troops and the visits of these people?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] You can not call it a withdrawal, you should call it expulsion. They were expelled. If they were not expelled they would not have left until doomsday. Now that they have left, they have not left the area completely. They are bothering Lebanon from nearby. They might even be hatching other plots. I do not think that they would leave Lebanon alone so easily. They are so impudent that if you throw them out through the door, they will enter through the window. They will never admit defeat. They want to justify their presence in any way possible. Now they talk about replacing themselves with UN forces.

What is important is the people's awareness. Fortunately, I see this in Lebanon. The professional politicians who occupied Lebanon and tried to keep people busy with day-to-day affairs have nothing to offer now. I hope that Israel and its supporters in the region will be defeated by Islamic revolutionary forces in the region and the way cleared for nations.

[Correspondent] I thank you for the time you have given us in this interview.

Khamene'i Gives Friday Prayers Sermon

LD021428 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 2 Mar 84

[Excerpts] While the army of Islam is achieving spectacular victories in the victorious Khaybar operations, today millions of Muslim compatriots throughout the country participated in the political-religious ceremonies of the Friday prayers and prayed for the final victory of the Islamic liberation army over the Zionist enemy. Tehran University and its adjacent streets witnessed today the integrated presence of the Muslim people of Tehran, who are always present on the scene, in the glorious ritual of Friday prayers. These great ceremonies were held under the imamate of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i.

Referring to the recent crimes committed by the Zionist Iraqi regime and its use of chemical bombs and weapons, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Khamene'i said: The international circles have fallen into a deadly sleep and say nothing when faced with these crimes. We expect nothing more of them and our words are addressed not to the silent international circles or the superpowers or those who deliver chemical bombs to Iraq, but to the world's public opinion. He said:

[Begin recording] You should know that contrary to all international regulations, the Iraqi regime has criminally used chemical and biological bombs on the battlefronts. It believed that this latest weapon would be effective and work, but these weapons have not been effective and have not worked and never will. [cries of "Death to America, death to USSR, death to those who oppose clerical rule, death to the hypocrites, death to Saddam, death to Israel"] Thanks to divine blessing, the Islamic fighting forces have resisted all types of weapons; they will resist this weapon as well. No weapon can prevail against the Islamic determination and force and the power of faith of a faithful people. With divine blessing we will continue the attacks. I ask our brothers fighting on the battlefronts to rely on the Almighty and the nation's

all-round support, not to grow weary, to deal their consecutive blows to the brain of the dying Iraqi regime, not to stop the series of attacks, and to advance until final victory, God willing. [cries of "Death to America, death to USSR, death to those who oppose clerical rule, death to the hypocrites, death to Saddam, death to Israel"]

Beloved combatants on the battlefronts: Do not give the enemy a chance; the enemy is tired; the enemy is frightened; the enemy is helpless; the enemy is pessimistic about the future; his internal situation is bad; the people of Iraq are on bad terms with him. You have heard some examples: When Iraqi helicopters come to raid the positions of the Muslim combatants, the Iraqi tribesmen themselves down Iraqi helicopters with their rifles. Considering such people, such a government and such a regime cannot stay. Of course, the beloved Iraqi people and the Iraqi military must strive to stop the last breaths of this dying body and to take the final steps. With God's blessing the work is finished and the world powers can do nothing.

When they lost hope on battlefronts, the world powers started making empty threats. Regarding the Strait of Hormuz we have already given the real and definite reply to the powers' empty threats; we do not consider it necessary to repeat what we have said or to reply again to their remarks and nonsense. But for you to know and for the nations to know, in reply to the world propaganda that says that the Strait of Hormuz will not be closed because in that case Iran would suffer more damage than anyone else, I say no, those whose very existence has been built on the wealth of this region will suffer more damage. [end recording]

IRNA Report

GF021705 Tehran IRNA in English 1628 GMT 2 Mar 84

[Text] Tehran, March 2, IRNA — The Islamic forces of Iran have inflicted heavy blows on the Iraqi forces and they are prepared to inflict greater blows at the next opportunity, President 'Ali Khamene'i said today.

He said the world powers and the regional states were in grief from worrying about what would happen with the overthrow of the Iraqi regime.

The president who was speaking in this week's Friday prayers in front of thousands of people at Tehran University emphasised that the Islamic Republic, unlike what Western propaganda reports were saying, would not suffer the most from the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, but rather it would be the countries with purely economic concerns which had the greatest need of the oil passing through the Strait who would be most threatened by its closure.

He also said that the trials currently being held against Muslim mujahideen in Egypt were giving more and more inspiration to the Muslim people who were craving for Islam.

The head of the Supreme Defence Council [SDC] said our combatants have inflicted their blows (on the Iraqi forces) and with the blessings of God, despite the conspiracies of the powers, they will make them see what they are so afraid of (the fall of the Iraqi regime).

The combatant Muslim forces are ready to inflict the greatest and more severe blows on the forces of Saddam in the first opportunity at their hand, he said.

The president added that the most important issue today was the fear of the world powers from the downfall of Saddam and the highly probable victory of the Islamic Republic and the Islamic forces. He said everyone is in grief about what to do if Saddam collapsed.

Dear combatants, do not give a chance to the enemy, the enemy is daunted, the enemy is wretched and has no hope in the future...with the blessings of God, everything is finished (for Saddam) and there is nothing the world powers can do (to save him), he said.

The head of the SDC said the Iraqi regime had used its greatest weapon against the Islamic forces of Iran in front of the open eyes of the world: chemical and microbe bombs.

(?The Iraqi regime) thought that this was its last and most effective weapon, but it has found that this weapon is not and will not be effective either. The Islamic combatant forces with the grace of God, had resisted all kinds of weapons and will resist against this one as well.

No weapon could stand against the Islamic determination and faith of a group of faithful Muslim people, the president said.

He invited members of international organisations to come to Iran and witness the victims of the Iraqi chemical bombings but said the Islamic Republic did not expect anything from them since they were under the influence of the world powers.

President Khamene'i said now that the world powers were getting no where in the war they imposed on the Islamic Republic, they were giving hollow and empty threats on the security of the Hormuz Strait.

He said the Islamic Republic had many times stated its real and certain replies to such threats but would once again announce to the people of the world that Iran would not be the biggest loser once the Strait of Hormuz was closed to traffic, despite Western propaganda.

I must say that the ones who will lose the most are those whose palaces of existence are built on the pillars of the regions wealth.

If this strait is closed, the industrial world will lose all of semblance of might and without economic power (from oil) the industrial world would not have political power either....

From the very first day when the Islamic Republic said it would close the Strait of Hormuz if its oil installations were attacked, they (the world powers) understood what was said and what would happen (if it was realised).

Our nation is a heroic nation, a struggling nation with a lot of experience in hardship. We can tolerate (these hardships) but can those hollow powers whose only source and power is oil take this hardship and resist, the president asked.

President Khamene'i then pointed out to the current trials in Egypt of Muslim mujahideen. He said after the death of Kamal 'Abd an-Nasir, American-influenced Egyptians had brought their country closer and closer to the West and the United States, while the Islamic movement, on the other hand, was growing against the establishment. He said the scene of Egyptian Muslims defying the country's rulers in their group cell during their trial and shouting support for Islam was inspirational for the Muslim peoples who craved Islam.

In the end of his sermon, the president called on the Iranian nation to observe a more simpler new year ceremony (on March 21) since consumerism in such economic and social conditions was not appropriate.

Ministers, Officials Tour Khark Island, Bushehr

GF021647 Tehran IRNA in English 1621 GMT 2 Mar 84

[Text] Bushehr, March, 2, IRNA — The minister of labour and social affairs, Abolqasem Sarkhadizadeh accompanied by Deputy Prime Minister for Development Hendi, arrived in Khark Island this morning and inspected oil installations and the combat readiness of the military personnel stationed in the island.

The labour minister also visited loading of giant oil tankers in the Khark oil terminal.

He also met with the ulema and officials of the island and attended the Friday prayers ceremony. He then left Khark for Bushehr.

The labour minister, the minister of ershad Eslami Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Khatami, the minister of state and head of the Plan and Budget Organisation, Mohammad Taqi Banki and several other officials of these ministeries arrived in Bushehr port this morning for a visit and also to look into problems of the people of Bushehr Province.

The minister of ershad Eslami speaking at the Bushehr airport about the reason of the visit, said that on behalf of the government the mission was to study the problems of the people of the area.

The ershad Eslami minister toured various parts of the city. The Bushehr deputy in the Majlis, Hojjat ol-Eslam Nabavi accompanied Khatami in the two-hour tour. Khatami held talks with officials and also people of the city on problems of the people. He hoped after conclusion of the Iraqi imposed war and elimination of problems caused by it, the government would be able to provide more services for the deprived areas.

Meanwhile the minister of state, Banki, visited the development projects in Kangan port 220 kms south of Bushehr. The projects visited included the gas refinery installations being built in Kangan.

Further Report

GF031553 Tehran IRNA in English 1528 GMT 3 Mar 84

[Text] Bushehr, March 3 IRNA — Ministers of labour and social affairs and ershad Eslami, Abolqasem Sarhadizadeh and Mohammad Khatami, respectively, currently touring Bushehr Province in a meeting with officials of the province reviewed issues related to road and dam construction, establishment of schools and colleges, also export of dates abroad Friday.

During the meeting minister of labour said that in order to compensate for shortcomings in coastal provinces, the government would allow free trade with neighbouring countries, adding that preliminary steps have been taken in this respect. He added that the government would also expand sea and fishing industries in these provinces.

Meanwhile minister of ershad Eslami, attended the morning ceremonies of military and security forces of Bushehr where he said that the war imposed on Iran by superpowers was beyond a regional struggle and capturing of small pieces of land and closure of sea borders.

During the ceremony, which was held in Bushehr-Khark Second Naval Region, Khatami also said that armed forces of the Islamic Republic in this fate determining war brought honour for the country.

He went on by saying that undoubtedly the armed forces with support of the nation and leadership of Imam Khomeyni would strike fatal blows upon the enemy. Referring to the plots of the United States in interferring in the affairs of Persian Gulf states he said that although the enemy possessed great destructive power, however, it lacked faith whereby it could benefit from its technology.

Imam's Representative

GF031749 Bushehr Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 3 Mar 84

[Text] Hojjat ol-Eslam Mahallati, the imam's representative in the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, along with the deputy in the Defense Council, a member of the foreign committee of the Islamic Majlis, and a number of under secretaries from the Ministry of Petroleum of our country arrived at Khark Island yesterday. They were received by the Friday imam, the district governor, and other officials of Khark Island.

According to a report by the Central News Unit, the representative of the imam in the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, called on the Friday imam of Khark Island, Hojjat ol-Eslam Salehi, and held short talks with him on the subject of the Khark Island. According to this report, the imam's representative in the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps later visited the Khark terminal and saw tankers loading oil. He also held talks with the captain of one of the oil tankers. The captain of this tanker said: We arrived here on 28 February and we had no problems in the course of our journey to Khark Island. Now we are leaving for Japan.

After this visit, Hojjat ol-Eslam Mahallati and his colleagues left Khark Island.

Officials Visit Bandar 'Abbas Naval Base

GF041334 Bandar 'Abbas Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 3 Mar 84

[Excerpt] According to a report received from the Persian Gulf and the Oman Sea Organization, Ayatollah Rezvani, head of the state administrative tribunal, along with a number of his followers, and Hojjat-ol Eslam Ahmadi, the Imam's representative and Friday imam of Bandar 'Abbas, this morning visited the naval base in order to inspect the Persian Gulf and Oman Sea Navy. He was received by Captain Abqari, commander of Naval Base No 1, and Hojjat-ol Eslam Zahedi, head of the Navy's political-ideological department. They inspected different sections of the naval base and also one of the ships.

1,500 Mobilization Forces Depart for Fronts

LD021846 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 2 Mar 84

[Text] According to our correspondent, more than 1,500 members of the mobilization unit of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps left at noon today for the battlefronts of good against evil. These brothers left Tehran after attending Friday prayers at Tehran University. They were given an enthusiatic send-off by the hezbollahi people and those attending Friday prayers in Tehran.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Issues Communiques

Communique No 1,653

LD021723 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1633 GMT 2 Mar 84

[Communique No 1,653 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] At 0715 this morning, one intruding plane of the Iraqi Armed Forces was hit by fire from the air defense units and fighter planes of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Jofeyr region, south of the country, and crashed.

The powerful combatants of Islam, on the northwestern fronts, by opening artillery and other heavy weaponsfire on enemy artillery and tank emplacements, infantry positions, supply routes, and moving columns, silenced the fire of the Saddamist forces and disrupted the logistic and engineering activities of the enemy. A number of enemy troops were either killed or wounded; in the Piranshah sector, around 10 Iraqi Ba'thist troops were killed or wounded.

Our victorious warriors, on the western and southern fronts, while continuing the task of consoldating their defensive positions, vigilantly monitored activities of enemy patrol units and from time to time opened heavy artillery fire on positions, fortifications, and motorized units of the Iraqi forces and inflicted losses on the Iraqi Ba'thist mercenaries on each front.

In the course of fire exchanges on the Arvand Rud front, the brave Gendarmerie warriors returned enemy fire and pounded its positions and units on the other side of the Arvand Rud, setting ablaze and destroying one ammunition depot, one heavy gun, and five heavy and light weapons emplacements and observation posts of the Saddamist mercenaries.

The city of Abadan came under the long-range artillery fire of the Iraqi forces yesterday; as a result, several districts of the city were set on fire six houses were damaged.

Communique No 1,654

LD031726 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 3 Mar 84

[Communique No 1,654 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] Yesterday, the selfless and self-sacrificing combatants of Islam dealt heavy and crushing blows to the Saddamist forces in the Khaybar operational region by destroying and wiping out enemy supply units in the region in front of the enemy defense lines. Using heavy artillery fire and other combined firearms on enemy tank and artillery positions and earth works, our forces silenced enemy fire and continued to establish and consolidate their own lines of defense and earth works.

On other fronts of the imposed war, from the most northern point of contact with the enemy to the southern fronts, fighting continued between our forces and the Ba'thist aggressors of Iraq in exchanges of artillery and heavy weapons fire. In some parts, there were limited confrontations between patrol details from both sides. The most intensive exchanges of fire occurred in Mehran and Changuleh in the west. The powerful forces of Islam on each front consolidated and strengthened their positions and lines of defense, and while guarding their positions, executed timely and well-aimed fire,destroying parts of positions, armored equipment and artillery positions of the Saddamist forces and inflicted considerable damage and casualties on the enemy forces. In each region, a number of enemy forces were killed or wounded.

On the Abadan and Khorramshahr fronts, the combatants of Islam comprising combatants of the Navy and warriors of the Gendarmerie returned the fire of the Iraqi forces and while killing a number of enemy personnel, they destroyed more than 13 machine gun and heavy weapons positions and foxholes, one ammunition depot, and 1 Katyusha and set fire to several of their fuel tanks in the Al-Faw region.

Yesterday, the city of Abadan came under sporadic fire from the artillery and long range weapons of the Saddamist mercenaries,as a result of which eight houses and shops were damaged and fires were started in three places in the city.

Communique No 1,655

LD041745 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 4 Mar 84

[Communique No 1,655 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] At 0053 today, an enemy plane was shot down by antiaircraft units and fighter planes of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Talayah operational sector, south of the country.

Yesterday, in the northwestern operational sector, our artillery fire crushed parts of enemy positions and fortifications on the Piranshah, Sar Dasht, Hajj 'Umran, Marivan, and Panjwin border fronts. At least 30 Saddamist mercenaries were killed or wounded.

Firing continued in the western operational theater. It was more intense in Sumar and Qasr-e Shirin; damage was inflicted on vehicles carrying Iraqi personnel.

During exchanges of fire in the Abadan and Khorramshahr operational theaters, our combative units stationed on the banks of the Arvand Rud fired on enemy positions west of the river, destroying eight slit trenches and fox holes, two observation posts, an ammunition dump, and a mortar launcher and killing several Iraqi personnel.

Enemy long-range heavy weapons fire on Abadan yesterday damaged four houses.

Musavi-Ardabili: Revolution Growing Stronger

GF021120 Tehran Television Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 2 Mar 84

[Text] Supreme Court President Musavi-Ardabili met with a group of members of the Mobilization Headquarters and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps protecting the achievements of the Islamic Revolution in Iran. The Supreme Court president asserted that, the efforts of the enemies of Islam notwithstanding, the Islamic Republic of Iran is growing stronger daily and is proceeding ahead with strong determination.

NVOI Commentary on 'Fratricide in Kordestan'

TA292016 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian 1730 GMT 29 Feb 84

[Unattributed commentary: "Outcome of Course Adopted by Rulers of Islamic Republic Is defeat and Abjectness"]

[Excerpts] Dear compatriots: The Islamic Government which has set for itself the aim of massacring the Iranian people — simultaneously with sending scores of thousands of Iranian youths to their deaths in the futile and destructive war with Iraq, and simultaneously with intensifying terror and repression against the true revolutionary forces — is continuing the war of fratricide in Kordestan as well as against the patriotic people of this region and the suppression of the Kurdish people.

Simultaneously with the so-called liberation of Jerusalem and Karbala' operations — in which they sent scores of Iranian youths and youngsters to their deaths — the Islamic regime's suppressive forces are also escalating their bloody and criminal war against the unarmed Kurdish people. Reports reaching us from the tragedy-stricken Province of Kordestan indicate that the suppressive forces of the government of ignorance and superstition are moving headlong in implementing their antipeople policy and in massacring Kurdish men, women, and children. The Islamic Government's military officials are calling these atrocities the purging of counterrevolutionaries from Kordestan's regions.

The Islamic Republic's tyrannical rulers who have consigned to oblivion implementation of the revolution's goals and even their own promises believe that by these criminal acts and fraticide they can bring the struggling Kurdish people to their knees and deter them from their just demands with regard to enjoying ethnic rights within the framework of a united Iran.

The experience of the past several years — in which rulers of the Islamic Republic of Iran imposed the war of fratricide on the Kurdish people — showed that with these military campaigns and fratricide these tyrannical rulers will never be able to defeat the brave Kurdish nation. In our multinational country, the ethnic problem is one of the most urgent and basic state problems and should be solved by taking into consideration the interests of the Iranian nation and country — not by resorting to force and coercion but rather through talks and by peaceful means.

Leaders of the Islamic Republic, who currently have seized power by deceiving the people, have not only repudiated most of their previous stances including all their promises with regard to solving state problems in the interest of working people, but also want to put the blame for the unforgivable crime of the treacherous and cowardly onslaught against the people of Kordestan on the deprived and combatant people of this region. However, the Islamic suppressive rulers are gravely mistaken. Our homeland's people are now well acquainted with their antipeople nature and their falsehoods no longer have any buyers in our society.

Those who have set for themselves the aim of suppressing an entire people should pay heed to the ominous fate of their predecessors who traversed this dangerous course in the past. Reactionary solutions that the Islamic rulers have adopted — according to a prescription of the imperialists — to solve state problems, will achieve nothing for them except disgrace, humiliation, and defeat.

Our revolutionary nation and all national and progressive forces believe that the ethnic problem in our multinational homeland should be solved in the interest of ethnic peoples and minorities within the framework of a united Iran. Independence and freedom for all the peoples of our homeland, as well as self-government within the framework of a united Iran for all ethnic minorities, including the Kurdish people, are among the basic slogans of our nation's current struggles. Those who do not want to succumb to this explicit demand of the people and to historical necessity must inevitably go.

Khamene'i Receives Chadli Bendjedid Message

LD041928 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 4 Mar 84

[Text] The Algerian ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Iran met today with the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mr Khamene'i, and handed him a message from the Algerian president. Mr Khamene'i thanked Mr Chadli Bendjedid for his friendly message and expressed hope for the expansion of friendly and sincere relations between Iran and Algeria: We believe that the Government of Algeria and your struggling country have been with us on many international issues. We believe that the fraternal relations between the two countries should expand daily. Mr Khamene'i stressed that Egypt's return to the Islamic Conference Organization would not help to resolve the Palestinian issue in any way and added: We believe that such a viewis wrong and is influenced by foreign powers.

Afghan Defense Minister Under House Arrest

GF040620 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 4 Mar 84

[Text] An Afghan official, who has recently arrived in India, has said that due to strong differences between the communist factions of Parcham and Khalq in Afghanistan, Abdol Qader, the Afghan defense minister of the ruling party, has been placed under house arrest.